# New RFK death probe

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## Say Sirhan gun may not have been only one

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It is nearly six years since Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, but a public probe scheduled today will reopen the lingering question of whether the man convicted of the killing acted alone.

The planned hearing into the controversial "second gun theory" of the Sirhan B. Sirhan case has been organized by a Los Angeles county supervisor, who says he wants to finally put the case to rest.

But because the supervisor, Baxter Ward, is running for governor, critics are calling the investigation a policical move.

A spokesman for Dist. Atty. Joseph Busch, who conducted his own probe of the gun claims in 1971, commented, "It is the belief of Dist. Atty. Busch that the case is closed and this hearing is a publicity thing for Ward. Mr. Busch sees it as a Ward campaign rally, and there will be no participation by the district attorney's office."

Ward's spokesman says, "We want to resolve some of the questions still hanging over the country in this matter. We want to find out what really happened."

The spokesman said Ward has publicly declared that "he is in favor of seeing Sirhan remain in jail for the rest of his life" and the hearing is not meant to vindicate Sirhan. However, he said Ward hopes to present evidence that will allow new testing of the weapon Sirhan used in the June 5, 1968, assassination at Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel.

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**AMONG THE WITNESSES** scheduled to testify at Ward's hearing are two criminologists who have said in affidavits they believe Sirhan's gun did not fire the bullets that killed Kennedy.

In the affidavits, the two, William Harper of suburban Pasadena and Herbert MacDonell, director of the Laboratory of Forensic Science in New York, said their investigations showed the bullets that killed Kennedy had different characteristics than a bullet taken from the body of another man injured in the volley of shots.

The criminologists lend support to the previously raised theory that a second gun was fired in the Ambassador kitchen where Kennedy was killed.

In 1971, an investigation was conducted by Busch and the police into allegations that the criminologist who testified for the prosecution, DeWayne Wolfer, had not test-fired Sirhan's gun and hadn't performed proper ballistics procedures in the case

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**AFTER A FIVE-MONTH** study, Busch announced that Wolfer had been cleared of the allegations. He said the investigation showed only that Wolfer had made a "clerical error" in labeling the trial exhibit envelope which contained three fired bullets.

One day after Busch's report, a three-man police inquiry board issued results of its own five-month probe, saying Sirhan was solely responsible for the Kennedy shooting.

Sirhan was sentenced to death for the Kennedy killing in 1969. His sentence was later commuted to life when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled out the death penalty.